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P 081656Z MAR 07
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3908
INFO RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 1383
RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM 0751
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UNCLAS CAIRO 000645

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL PHUM KPAL EG
SUBJECT: RAFAH BORDER CROSSING OPEN; VIOLENCE ON
PALESTINIAN SIDE

Sensitive but unclassified. Please protect accordingly.

(SBU) A contact at the Liaison Agency with International Organizations (LAWIO) reported that violence ensued on the Palestinian side of the Rafah border crossing at approximately 10:00 A.M. on March 8 as a large crowd of Palestinians attempted to enter the border terminal. The contact said that Palestinian security forces fired into the air to regain control of the crowd. He could not comment on press reports that one man died and seven people suffered injuries, but confirmed that 300 people crossed from Gaza into Egypt and 142 crossed from Egypt into Gaza during the opening.

RICCIARDONE